

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 9, 2012

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1865

Introduced by Assembly Member Alejo

February 22, 2012

An act to amend Section 1161.2 of the Code of Civil Procedure, relating to eviction.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AB 1865, as amended, Alejo. Residential tenancies: eviction: notices.

Existing law governs unlawful detainer proceedings. Existing law requires the clerk to mail a specified notice upon the filing of an unlawful detainer action to each defendant named in the action and requires the notice to contain the name and telephone number of the county bar association as well as other legal services organizations that provide ~~service~~ *services* to low-income persons.

This bill would require that the notice described above contain, ~~as an alternative~~ *in addition* to the county bar association, the name and telephone number of any *one or more* nonprofit bar ~~association within the county that is~~ *associations that provide legal services to persons in the court where the action is filed and that are* duly authorized by the State Bar as a lawyer referral ~~provider~~ *service*.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 1161.2 of the Code of Civil Procedure
2 is amended to read:

1 1161.2. (a) The clerk may allow access to limited civil case
2 records filed under this chapter, including the court file, index,
3 and register of actions, only as follows:

4 (1) To a party to the action, including a party's attorney.

5 (2) To any person who provides the clerk with the names of at
6 least one plaintiff and one defendant and the address of the
7 premises, including the apartment or unit number, if any.

8 (3) To a resident of the premises who provides the clerk with
9 the name of one of the parties or the case number and shows proof
10 of residency.

11 (4) To any person by order of the court, which may be granted
12 ex parte, on a showing of good cause.

13 (5) Except as provided in paragraph (6), to any other person 60
14 days after the complaint has been filed, unless a defendant prevails
15 in the action within 60 days of the filing of the complaint, in which
16 case the clerk may not allow access to any court records in the
17 action, except as provided in paragraphs (1) to (4), inclusive.

18 (6) In the case of a complaint involving residential property
19 based on Section 1161a as indicated in the caption of the complaint,
20 as required in subdivision (c) of Section 1166, to any other person,
21 if 60 days have elapsed since the complaint was filed with the
22 court, and, as of that date, judgment against all defendants has
23 been entered for the plaintiff, after a trial. If judgment is not entered
24 under the conditions described in this paragraph, the clerk shall
25 not allow access to any court records in the action, except as
26 provided in paragraphs (1) to (4), inclusive.

27 (b) For purposes of this section, "good cause" includes, but is
28 not limited to, the gathering of newsworthy facts by a person
29 described in Section 1070 of the Evidence Code. It is the intent of
30 the Legislature that a simple procedure be established to request
31 the ex parte order described in subdivision (a).

32 (c) Upon the filing of any case so restricted, the court clerk shall
33 mail notice to each defendant named in the action. The notice shall
34 be mailed to the address provided in the complaint. The notice
35 shall contain a statement that an unlawful detainer complaint
36 (eviction action) has been filed naming that party as a defendant,
37 and that access to the court file will be delayed for 60 days except
38 to a party, an attorney for one of the parties, or any other person
39 who (1) provides to the clerk the names of at least one plaintiff
40 and one defendant in the action and provides to the clerk the

1 address, including any applicable apartment, unit, or space number,
2 of the subject premises, or (2) provides to the clerk the name of
3 one of the parties in the action or the case number and can establish
4 through proper identification that he or she lives at the subject
5 premises. The notice shall also contain a statement that access to
6 the court index, register of actions, or other records is not permitted
7 until 60 days after the complaint is filed, except pursuant to an
8 order upon a showing of good cause therefor. The notice shall
9 contain on its face the name and telephone number of the county
10 bar association ~~or any nonprofit bar association within the county~~
11 *that is and, if available, one or more nonprofit bar associations*
12 *that provide legal services to persons in the court where the action*
13 *is filed and that are duly authorized by the State Bar as a lawyer*
14 *referral-provider service.* The notice shall also contain on its face
15 the name and telephone number of an office or offices funded by
16 the federal Legal Services Corporation or qualified legal services
17 projects that receive funds distributed pursuant to Section 6216 of
18 the Business and Professions Code that provide legal services to
19 low-income persons in the county in which the action is filed. The
20 notice shall state that these numbers may be called for legal advice
21 regarding the case. The notice shall be issued between 24 and 48
22 hours of the filing of the complaint, excluding weekends and
23 holidays. One copy of the notice shall be addressed to “all
24 occupants” and mailed separately to the subject premises. The
25 notice shall not constitute service of the summons and complaint.

26 (d) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the court shall
27 charge an additional fee of fifteen dollars (\$15) for filing a first
28 appearance by the plaintiff. This fee shall be added to the uniform
29 filing fee for actions filed under this chapter.

30 (e) This section does not apply to a case that seeks to terminate
31 a mobilehome park tenancy if the statement of the character of the
32 proceeding in the caption of the complaint clearly indicates that
33 the complaint seeks termination of a mobilehome park tenancy.